United Nations A/AC.109/2017/10

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 January 2017

Original: English

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Montserrat

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

Contents

		Page
	The Territory at a glance	3
I.	Constitutional, legal and political issues	4
II.	Budget	5
III.	Economic conditions	5
	A. General	5
	B. Agriculture and fisheries	5
	C. Financial services	6
	D. Tourism	7
	E. Construction	7
	F. Utilities and communication	7
IV.	Social conditions	8
	A. General	8
	B. Labour	8

Note: The information contained in the present working paper has been derived from public sources, including those of the territorial Government, and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the administering Power under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. Information was transmitted by the administering Power on 8 December 2016. Further details are contained in previous working papers, available from www.un.org/en/decolonization/workingpapers.shtml.

17-01283 (E) 070217

Please recycle

C. Education 9
D. Public health 9
E. Crime and public safety 10
F. Human rights 10
V. Environment and volcanic activity 11
VI. Relations with international organizations and partners 11
VII. Future status of the Territory 12
A. Position of the territorial Government 12
B. Position of the administering Power 12
VIII. Action taken by the General Assembly 13

The Territory at a glance

Territory: Montserrat is a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the Charter of the United Nations administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Representative of administering Power: Governor Elizabeth Carriere (since August 2015).

Geography: situated in the Leeward Islands in the eastern Caribbean, 43 km south-west of Antigua and 64 km north-west of Guadeloupe. The entire island is volcanic. In July 1995, the Soufrière Hills volcano, which had been dormant for more than 400 years, erupted with devastating effects, including the destruction of the capital, causing the evacuation and relocation of about 70 per cent of the population from the southern part of the island. The effects of that eruption and subsequent lighter volcanic activity are still being felt.

Land area: 103 km².

Exclusive economic zone: 7,582 km².

Population: 5,000 (2012 estimate).

Life expectancy at birth: 74.14 years (men: 75.64 years, women: 72.57 years (2015 estimate)).

Language: English.

Capital: Plymouth, abandoned in 1997 following the volcanic eruption. A new urban centre is being developed at Little Bay, on the north-west coast of the island.

Head of territorial Government: Premier Donaldson Romeo (September 2014).

Main political parties: People's Democratic Movement; Movement for Change and Prosperity.

Elections: most recent: September 2014; next: due in September 2019.

Gross domestic product per capita: $8,500.

Economy: financial services, investments, construction.

Main trading partners: Canada, Japan, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America.

Unemployment rate: 6.5 per cent (2013 estimate).

Monetary unit: East Caribbean dollar, pegged to the United States dollar (EC$ 2.70 equals $1).

Brief history: Christopher Columbus named Montserrat after a monastery near Barcelona in Spain. The first European settlers, mostly Irish, arrived in 1632. The island later became a haven for indentured Irish servants transported to the British West Indies. A major slave uprising occurred on Saint Patrick's Day in 1768. In the eighteenth century, Montserrat was intermittently occupied by France, prior to its confirmation as a British Territory in 1783. It became a British Crown colony in 1871. Following the break-up of the Federation of the West Indies in 1962, Montserrat opted for Crown colony status rather than associated statehood.

I. Constitutional, legal and political issues

1. Under the Montserrat Constitution Order 2010, which entered into force in September 2011, Montserrat has a governor appointed by the British Crown, a Cabinet and a legislative assembly. The current Governor took office in August 2015. She is responsible for internal security (including the police force), external affairs, defence, public service and the regulation of international financial services. Under the legislation under which the Constitution was enacted, the British Crown reserves the power, with the advice of the Privy Council of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to make laws either generally or for the peace, order and good government of Montserrat.

2. The Cabinet consists of the Premier, three other ministers and, in an ex officio capacity, the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary. The Deputy Governor, a Montserratian appointed by the Governor, attends meetings but does not have the right to vote. The Cabinet is presided over by the Governor, who does not have the right to vote within the Cabinet and is responsible for the general control and direction of the Government, and is collectively responsible to the legislature.

3. The Legislative Assembly consists of nine elected members and the same two ex officio members as the Cabinet. Elections are normally held in Montserrat every five years on the basis of universal adult suffrage. In the most recent elections, held in September 2014, the Movement for Change and Prosperity, which had formed the previous Government, was defeated and the newly formed People's Democratic Movement, headed by Donaldson Romeo, won seven of the nine seats in the Assembly. In September 2014, Mr. Romeo became the Premier of Montserrat.

4. The law of Montserrat comprises primarily legislation enacted by the legislature of Montserrat, certain acts of Parliament of the United Kingdom extended to Montserrat, orders in the council made by the British Crown on behalf of the Territory in the Privy Council and English common law. Montserrat falls under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (High Court and Court of Appeal). The Court of Appeal is an itinerant court established under the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court Order No. 223 of 1967, whose sittings rotate among its nine members, including Montserrat. The final court of appeal for civil and criminal matters is the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The British Overseas Territories Act 2002 provides for the granting of British citizenship to British overseas territory citizens.

5. As previously reported, the then Premier of Montserrat, addressing the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012, stated that Montserrat was a fully internally self-governing Territory where all executive decisions were made by the local Cabinet of Ministers. He further stated that there was no public interest whatsoever in separating from the United Kingdom. The continuing relationship with the United Kingdom was one made by free choice and the people of the island did not see themselves as being a colonized people. He recommended that the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples remove Montserrat from its decolonization discussions.

II. Budget

6. According to the administering Power, the public sector in Montserrat continues to be dependent on budgetary aid from the United Kingdom. The 2016/17 budget statement of the territorial Government delivered in March 2016 indicates that the recurrent revenue estimate in 2016/17 is EC$ 126.49 million, including EC$ 79.2 million of the budgetary aid from the United Kingdom which accounts for approximately 62 per cent of the revenue. Total expenditure is expected to be EC$ 165.82 million, with the recurrent expenditure at EC$ 127.15 million. According to the administering Power, in addition to the above-mentioned contribution to the recurrent budget, the United Kingdom made available approximately EC$ 37 million to support capital projects for 2016/17.

7. Furthermore, according to the official information of the territorial Government, the recurrent balance, the difference between the recurrent revenue and recurrent expenditure in 2015/16, is projected to be approximately EC$ 5.55 million. With the capital balance of EC$ 4.26 million, the estimated total positive balance is EC$ 9.81 million. The United Kingdom provided $75.92 million as its budget support to Montserrat in 2015/16.

8. Individual residents are taxed on their worldwide income from all sources. Tax is also levied on the chargeable income paid by any incorporated company, building society or body of persons. While companies pay a tax of 30 per cent on profits, there is no capital gains tax.

9. According to the administering Power, the Territory benefits from an allocation of approximately €18.4 million under the eleventh European Development Fund (2014-2020).

III. Economic conditions

A. General

10. According to statistics provided by the administering Power, economic growth in Montserrat has continued to be modest, estimated at 0.32 per cent in 2014/15, compared with 5.35 per cent in 2013/14. Real gross domestic product (GDP) for 2013/14 was EC$ 149.93 million and real GDP growth in 2015/16 was 0.3 per cent. For its part, the United Kingdom has continued to support the Montserrat Development Corporation in recognition of its role as a facilitator and project manager supporting foreign and local private investment in pursuit of sustainable socioeconomic development.

B. Agriculture and fisheries

11. As a result of ongoing volcanic activity, most fertile agricultural land, pastures and fishing areas continue to be either restricted or inaccessible. In recent years, however, agricultural crop, fish and livestock production has reportedly increased.

12. In recent years, the territorial Government has continued to focus on agriculture as a key area on which to build its self-reliance policy. Initiatives included providing employment opportunities and encouraging more local production, notably by establishing backyard gardens and increasing the acreage devoted to cultivation. In March 2016, with the financial support of the Caribbean Development Bank and the territorial Government, an abattoir for the production of meat products on the island, in line with its public health legislation, was completed. According to the administering Power, to further support and build on the island's self-reliance policy, the agricultural strategic marketing plan was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture in December 2016, with the objective of reducing dependence on imported fresh food and exploring niche market opportunities for local food products.

C. Financial services

13. Montserrat is a member of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, which acts as the central bank for the Territory and is part of the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, the body that monitors anti-money-laundering activities and works to counter the financing of terrorism in the region. There are various banking facilities, including two commercial entities (the Bank of Montserrat and the Royal Bank of Canada) and several international banks. There is also a credit union and a building society.

14. In 2016, the territorial Government continued to enhance corporate governance of the international financial services industry, in cooperation with the Financial Services Commission, to regulate international banks, insurance companies, money service providers and cooperative societies. According to the administering Power, correspondent banking for the Bank of Montserrat became a pertinent issue beginning in 2016. Bank of America's de-risking strategy to cease business with banks in the region by the end of November 2016 led the Bank of Montserrat to negotiate with potential new partners, and, in September 2016, they announced a new corresponding banking business partnership with Gibraltar International Bank and Crown Agents Bank Limited.

15. In the communiqué adopted at the fifth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, held in London on 1 and 2 November 2016, the overseas territories and the United Kingdom reiterated: their mutual determination to continue to tackle corruption, fraud, money-laundering, and the financing of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and to further enhance transparency and law enforcement cooperation in the context of financial services. They also reiterated their shared commitment to providing the leadership necessary to meet the June 2017 deadline for the implementation of new arrangements regarding the exchange of beneficial ownership information on companies incorporated in their jurisdictions and to continuing to provide the highest levels of law enforcement cooperation possible before that date. According to the administering Power, the territorial Government announced its intention in November 2015 to introduce a public central register of company beneficial ownership.

D. Tourism

16. The redevelopment of the tourism industry, which was the main contributor to GDP prior to the volcanic eruption in 1995, continues to be a priority for the territorial Government. In September 2016, it was announced that the territorial Government would establish a new investment and promotion agency as a statutory body to better address the need for tourism investment in Montserrat and for an enhanced profile in the global tourism marketplace.

17. As previously reported, an improved ferry service with greater capacity was launched in December 2013. The ferry makes the trip between Montserrat and Antigua in about an hour, enabling Montserrat to market itself as a day-trip destination. According to the administering Power, the ferry service was suspended in April 2016 for contractual reasons, and, after a full procurement process, a new service came into operation on 2 December 2016.

18. According to the administering Power, the total number of visitor arrivals in 2015 numbered 13,275, of which 8,944 were tourists and 1,740 were excursionists. Efforts have been made to attract cruise ships to the island and to promote escorted tours to the abandoned capital, Plymouth. Weekly cruise-ship visits from late November 2015 to March 2016 brought 2,591 passengers.

E. Construction

19. The physical development plan for the period 2013-2022 maps out the territorial Government's vision for developing the northern portion of the Territory and provides a framework to help to meet the objectives set out in the sustainable development plan, addressing issues such as land availability, limited resources and infrastructure development.

F. Utilities and communication

20. A statutory body, Montserrat Utilities Limited, distributes water and electricity in the Territory. According to the administering Power, the entire population enjoys access to a plentiful supply of good potable water, and about 98 per cent of residents are connected to the water system. The water section of the company also has responsibility over the sewage treatment in some areas, notably Lookout and Davy Hill.

21. For its part, in 2016 the territorial Government continued to promote the development of a national energy policy, moving away from inefficient containerized high-speed diesel generators. According to the administering Power, in November 2016, those generators presented significant operational problems, leading to island-wide power cuts, which were solved by load-shedding. According to the administering Power, it is expected that sufficient geothermal energy resources will eventually be made available to meet the demand for electricity. Also in November, the drilling of the third geothermal well provided positive results.

22. In addition to the ferry service, Montserrat and Antigua and Barbuda are also connected by scheduled and charter air services operated by two companies.

Montserrat is a member of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority and of Air Safety Support International, which regulates the Territory's airspace and airline.

IV. Social conditions

A. General

23. The volcanic crisis has had a profound effect on traditional social structures and support systems in the Territory. Many families and communities have been split up and relocated to various parts of the world. According to the administering Power, social welfare services in Montserrat continue to include monthly financial assistance, rental assistance and one-time assistance for basic items. According to the administering Power, the United Kingdom and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continue to support the development of integrated delivery of social services in Montserrat.

B. Labour

24. According to the administering Power, the working population of Montserrat comprises about 2,700 persons, approximately 71 per cent of whom are Montserratians. Labour relations are governed by the Employment Act and the Labour Code, both revised in 2012, under which the Department of Labour provides mediation and conciliation services, and the Labour Tribunal settles disputes.

25. The Labour Code, as revised in 2012, sets out minimum conditions of employment and establishes the procedures for the settlement of labour disputes, providing for equality of treatment in employment, irrespective of an employee's race, colour, sex, religious beliefs, ethnic origin, nationality, political opinion or affiliation, disability, family responsibilities, pregnancy, marital status or age. According to the administering Power, in 2015, the Department of Labour submitted recommendations to the Attorney General for the review and update of technical regulations associated with the Labour Code and the territorial Government reconstituted the Labour Advisory Board, which provides advice on the desirability of establishing a national minimum wage. According to the administering Power, progress on establishing a national minimum wage is expected in the second quarter of 2017. In 2016, the territorial Government continued to address the entrenched shortage of skilled labour by providing relocation incentives to Montserratians and granting work permits to non-Montserratians in order to meet the demand for professional and other skilled labour. Work permits are granted under the Immigration Act as revised in 2008.

26. The labour needs assessment completed in July 2016, which outlined the current capacity and the future needs of labour, was distributed to the administering Power. The recommendations contained therein include a closer look at the educational curriculum aiming at filling the gaps in labour needs, and are currently under review.

C. Education

27. Montserrat has educational infrastructure and services that provide full access to primary and secondary education. Compulsory education starts at age 5 and continues until age 16. According to the administering Power, in 2016, two primary schools are private, two are public and the only secondary school is also public, a total of 62 pupils graduated from the secondary school in 2016.

28. The Education Development Plan for the period 2012-2020 sets out the guidelines for the Ministry of Education in providing for early childhood, primary, secondary and post-secondary education, in addition to special needs, teacher training and education support services. There are several government day-care facilities and nursery schools and a privately owned early childhood facility. According to the administering Power, in 2015, a child safeguarding review was completed and a number of recommendations were made for enhanced inter-agency coordination in order to better protect children. A protocol against child abuse has been developed which, once approved, is expected to form the basis for the strengthened coordination recommended in the review. As at 2016, according to the administering Power, those recommendations remain under review and have not been fully implemented.

29. The Montserrat Community College, which is partly subsidized and based in Salem, offers advanced academic courses for students between 16 and 18 years of age, as well as technical skills courses. The University of the West Indies maintains an extramural department adjacent to the Community College. Postgraduate students can study for a variety of long-distance degrees from the University.

30. Students from overseas territories benefit from the home student rate for school fees at British universities, provided they have lived in a British overseas territory, the European Economic Area or Switzerland for the three years prior to the first academic year of their course of study. In 2016, two students from Montserrat were awarded the Chevening scholarship by the Government of the United Kingdom to study in the United Kingdom. In addition, in accordance with decision 2013/755 of the Council of the European Union on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union, the European Union provides access to funding for higher education and vocational education.

D. Public health

31. The Ministry of Health is responsible for providing primary and secondary health-care services, environmental health services and foster care, in addition to health-related policy advice in areas such as general medical care and surgical care, diagnostic testing, eye and ear care and medication. The territorial Government offers free emergency dental services for school-age children, older persons, pregnant women, teachers, nurses, and police and fire officers, in addition to providing highly specialized health services through arrangements for a number of specialists to visit the Territory. At the same time, protocols are in place for emergency medical evacuation to Antigua and Barbuda and Guadeloupe.

32. The Territory's health facilities include the 30-bed Glendon Hospital in Saint John's, which offers services related to routine health issues, X-rays and minor

operations, in addition to several primary care clinics. According to the administering Power, public consultations on the potential sites for the construction of new hospital facilities are ongoing, with the aim of building the new hospital by 2019.

E. Crime and public safety

33. Under a five-year strategy, the Royal Montserrat Police Service is focusing on neighbourhood and intelligence-led policing, crime reduction and prevention and partnerships with the criminal justice system. According to the administering Power, Montserrat has a very low crime rate compared with the rest of the Caribbean region.

34. During 2016, the United Kingdom continued to provide funding for a law enforcement adviser based in Miami, United States of America, who coordinated, managed and facilitated training and the provision of strategic advice in order to introduce new techniques and skills to the Territory's law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, in 2016, the HMS *Mersey* and RFA *Wave Knight* were in the Caribbean, from January to July and from July to December 2016, respectively, as part of the Atlantic patrol tasking of the Royal Navy, ensuring a maritime presence of the United Kingdom and providing humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and crisis communications support in the region. Both ships also worked with other regional navies and coast guards to combat illegal activities on the high seas. During the hurricane season, a larger Royal Navy or Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship is on standby to provide humanitarian and disaster relief support to Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

F. Human rights

35. Under the Territory's Constitution, provision is made regarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual. Major international and European human rights instruments have been extended to Montserrat. In addition, according to the administering Power, Montserrat is currently preparing to request the extension to the Territory of the ratification by the United Kingdom of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

36. According to the information provided by the administering Power, currently there are no government bodies or non-governmental organizations addressing human rights issues in Montserrat. In September 2016, a representative from the island was sent to the first Overseas Territory Human Rights Conference with a view to establishing a human rights body to address those concerns.

37. In the communiqué adopted at the fifth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, the United Kingdom and the overseas territories, including Montserrat, agreed to work together to conduct a review of reservations to core United Nations human rights treaties ahead of the preparation of the report of the United Kingdom under the universal periodic review conducted by the Human Rights Council in 2017. They also committed themselves to working together to

further develop the capacity of territories' national human rights institutions, where established, in line with the international standards set out in the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), and to deepening understanding of their shared obligations with regard to international human rights.

V. Environment and volcanic activity

38. Following the eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano in 1995, an exclusion zone comprising roughly the southern two thirds of the island was established. Since the last major eruptive activity, in February 2010, the volcano has been in a state of pause and some restrictions in access to zone C, which is part of the outer exclusion zone, were lifted in 2014, allowing 24-hour access to some areas.

39. According to the administering Power, Montserrat has a clearly defined institutional framework for disaster response, which was tested in 2013 in an exercise called "Green flash". A hurricane plan, which was produced in 2013 and is revised annually, outlines the major tasks to be undertaken by the Territory's agencies, ministries or departments as part of the emergency management system in planning for and responding to tropical weather systems.

40. In the communiqué adopted at the fifth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, in 2016, the Government of the United Kingdom and the overseas territories recognized the impact that climate change had on the economies, infrastructure and ecosystems of the territories and the important interest of the overseas territories in international efforts to combat and mitigate the effects of climate change. The Government of the United Kingdom committed itself to consulting with territorial Governments on the issue of the application of the Paris Agreement to the territories. It reiterated its full commitment to consulting the overseas territories ahead of its participation in international forums on climate change to ensure that their priorities were taken into account and to including them in delegations, where appropriate, while welcoming the territories' links with regional and international organizations.

VI. Relations with international organizations and partners

41. Montserrat is an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its subsidiary bodies. According to the administering Power, the Territory continues to maintain a bilateral dialogue with the International Monetary Fund, involving the public sector, banking, business and union representatives.

42. Montserrat is a founding member of both the Caribbean Community and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and a member of the institutions associated with those organizations, including the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, in addition to the Assembly of the OECS, which was established in 2012 under the Revised Treaty of Basseterre to support the legislative work of OECS. Moreover, the

Territory has observer status with the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and is a member of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism.

43. As a Non-Self-Governing Territory of the United Kingdom, Montserrat is associated with the European Union but is not a part of it. At the fifth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, in 2016, the United Kingdom committed itself to involving Gibraltar and the overseas territories as it prepared for negotiations to leave the European Union, in accordance with their various constitutional relationships with the United Kingdom, to ensure that their priorities were taken into account. Under decision 2013/755 of the Council of the European Union, which, according to the administrative Power, was approved, among other things, in an effort to move away from a classic development cooperation approach to a reciprocal partnership that promotes sustainable development and the values and standards of the European Union in the wider world, the Territory is in partnership with the European Union.

VII. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Government

44. Information on the position of the territorial Government regarding the future status of Montserrat is set out in section I above.

B. Position of the administering Power

45. At the 7th meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), on 10 October 2016, during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that the relationship of the Government of the United Kingdom with its overseas territories was a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of the people of each Territory to choose to remain British.

46. He went on to say that, since the publication in June 2012 by the Government of the United Kingdom of a white paper entitled *The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability*, his Government had worked closely with the overseas territories to further develop those partnerships. At annual meetings of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, the United Kingdom and the territories reviewed strategy and commitments and, in 2015, the United Kingdom had affirmed its commitment to the advancement of the peoples of the territories and their just treatment and protecting them from abuses, as well as the importance of promoting their right to self-determination. His Government's fundamental responsibility was to ensure the security and good governance of the territories and their peoples.

47. In the communiqué adopted at the fifth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, the Government of the United Kingdom and the leaders of the overseas territories: stated that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, applied to the peoples of the overseas territories. They reaffirmed the importance of promoting the right of the peoples of the territories to self-determination, a

collective responsibility of all parts of the Government of the United Kingdom. They committed themselves to exploring ways in which the overseas territories could maintain international support in countering hostile sovereignty claims. It was also stated that should a Territory with a permanent population wish it, the United Kingdom would continue to support its requests to be removed from the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. They agreed that the fundamental structure of their constitutional relationships was the right one — powers were devolved to the elected Governments of the Territories to the maximum extent possible consistent with the United Kingdom's retaining those powers necessary to discharge its sovereign responsibilities. They also agreed upon the need to continue their engagement on those issues to ensure that constitutional arrangements worked effectively to promote the best interests of the territories and of the United Kingdom.

VIII. Action taken by the General Assembly

48. On 6 December 2016, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 71/114, on the basis of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2016 (A/71/23) and on the subsequent recommendation by the Fourth Committee. In that resolution, the General Assembly:

(a) Reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Montserrat to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(b) Also reaffirmed that, in the process of decolonization of Montserrat, there was no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which was also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

(c) Further reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of Montserrat to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

(d) Recalled the 2011 Constitution of Montserrat and the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward to consolidate the gains provided for in the Constitution;

(e) Requested the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the

Charter, and in that regard called upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

(f) Welcomed the Territory's participation in the work of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(g) Called upon the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

(h) Stressed the importance of the Special Committee's being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Montserrat and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Montserrat and the administering Power;

(i) Called upon the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Montserrat, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

(j) Reaffirmed the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requested the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

(k) Took into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supported, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as a tax haven, that were not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

(l) Requested the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requested the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

(m) Requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Montserrat and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session and on the implementation of the present resolution.